

11 FEB 1959

Director of WS 117L

ATTN: WIZW

SUBJECT: (U) WS 117L Program

TO: Commander  
Air Research and Development Command  
Andrews Air Force Base  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Three (3) new development plans, DISCOVERER, SENTRY, and MIDAS, describing the reoriented WS 117L Program, have been forwarded directly to the Assistant Chief of Guided Missiles, Headquarters, USAF. This action has been taken in order to meet the requirements of the Headquarters, USAF, imposed presentation schedule for these plans.

2. Normal distribution will be made to your headquarters immediately upon completion of the reproduction of the plans.

3. These development plans propose joint ARPA-Air Force funding. In each plan Air Force and ARPA costs are separately identified. The separation of the total program cost into Air Force cost and ARPA cost has been made in accordance with available guidance.

4. Briefings on these programs were given to Headquarters, USAF and ARPA during the period 29 January to 4 February 1959. These plans have been drawn up to reflect the Air Force-ARPA agreed funding levels for SENTRY and DISCOVERER and the Air Force recommendations for funding of MIDAS. At the direction of Headquarters, USAF certain costs are not identified in these plans. Separate funding action will be required in some cases.

a. Advance planning (design) funds for Military Construction Program (MCP) items have not been included. The required sums are: FY 58 - \$900,000. (already provided), FY 59 - \$827,000. formerly on ARPA Order 41-59, and \$937,000. in P-313 for MIDAS.

b. Operations and maintenance costs and other support items are not shown. These will be included in the appropriate Annual Financial Plans.

5. It must be emphasized that DISCOVERER and SENTRY Programs are interdependent programs and partial approval of either program will require reconsideration of both efforts. Further, in the interests of economy and efficiency, the MIDAS Program is based on the assumption that the proposed DISCOVERER and SENTRY Programs are approved in their entirety.

6. In the past year the WS 117L Program has been plagued with instability, inadequate or untimely decision, or the lack of a decision at all. This instability culminated in the reorientation of this program in December 1958, which is the primary purpose for the submission of these new plans. Additionally, a serious funding problem has been encountered particularly in the present fiscal year. This problem is related to the incremental funding of the WS 117L Program on a month to month basis. This funding condition has made an otherwise difficult job more difficult and has been the cause of considerable concern within ARBMD and its contractors.

7. In order to stabilize the program and initiate contractual actions for the continuation of the program, Air Force Headquarters has been requested to take expeditious action to accomplish the following:

- a. Immediate release of the remaining fiscal year 1959 funds.
- b. Early coordinated Air Force and ARPA approval of joint programs.

SIGNED

O. J. RITLAND  
Brig. Gen., USAF  
Vice Commander

Copy furnished:  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
for Guided Missiles, Hq USAF  
WDP

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